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Proposed Maximum Residue Limit PMRL2012-08

Thiamethoxam

(publié aussi en français)

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Under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has concluded that the addition of new uses on fruiting vegetables, except cucurbits (Crop Group 8) to the product label of Actara 25WG Insecticide, containing technical grade thiamethoxam, is acceptable. The specific uses approved in Canada are detailed on the label of Actara 25WG Insecticide, *Pest Control Products Act* Registration Number 28408.

The evaluation of this thiamethoxam application indicated that the end-use product has merit and value and the human health and environmental risks associated with the new uses are acceptable. Details regarding the registration can be found in the corresponding Evaluation Report that is available in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website, under Public Registry, Pesticide Product Information Database.[1]

Before registering a pesticide for food use in Canada, the PMRA must determine the quantity of residues that are likely to remain in or on the food when the pesticide is used according to label directions and that such residues will not be a concern to human health. This quantity is then legally established as a maximum residue limit (MRL). An MRL applies to the identified raw agricultural food commodity as well as to any processed food product that contains it, except where separate MRLs are specified for the raw agricultural commodity and a processed product made from it.

Consultation on the proposed MRLs for thiamethoxam is being conducted via this document (see Next Steps, the last section of this document).

To comply with Canada's international trade obligations, consultation on the proposed MRLs is also being conducted internationally by notifying the World Trade Organization, as coordinated by the Standards Council of Canada.

The proposed MRLs in Canada in or on food, to replace the MRLs already legally established for thiamethoxam, are as follows.

Table 1 Proposed Maximum Residue Limits for Thiamethoxam

Common Name	Residue Definition	MRL (ppm)	Food Commodity
Thiamethoxam	3-[(2-chloro-5-thiazolyl)methyl]tetrahydro-5-methyl-*N*-nitro-4*H*-1,3,5-oxadiazin-4-imine, including the metabolite (*E*)-*N*-[(2-chloro-5-thiazolyl)methyl]-*N'*-methyl-*N''*-nitroguanidine	0.8	Tomato paste*
		0.25	Fruiting vegetables, except cucurbits (Crop Group 8)*

ppm = parts per million

*The MRLs are proposed to replace the 0.02 ppm MRL currently established for all commodities without a specified MRL for thiamethoxam as captured by "All food crops (other than those listed in this item)".

[1] The relevant report can be accessed by selecting Programs and Special Actions/Minor Use/Historical and requesting the Evaluation Report found under Application Number 2009-2557.

An MRL is proposed for each commodity included in the fruiting vegetables crop group in accordance with the Residue Chemistry Crop Groups webpage in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website.

A complete list of all pesticide MRLs established in Canada, as of the date indicated, can be found on the Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides webpage in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website.

International Situation and Trade Implications

MRLs may vary from one country to another for a number of reasons, including differences in pesticide use patterns and the locations of the field crop trials used to generate residue chemistry data. The proposed MRLs for thiamethoxam in Canada are the same as corresponding tolerances established in the United States but differ from Codex MRLs.[2] American tolerances are listed in the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR Part 180, by pesticide. Codex MRLs are listed on the Codex Alimentarius Pesticide Residues in Food website, by pesticide or commodity.

Table 2 Comparison of Canadian MRLs, American Tolerances and Codex MRLs

Food Commodity	Canadian MRL (ppm)	American Tolerance (ppm)	Codex MRL (ppm)
Tomato paste	0.8	0.8	0.7*
Fruiting vegetables, except cucurbits (Crop Group 8)	0.25	0.25	0.7

*In the absence of an MRL for the processed commodity, the MRL for the raw agricultural commodity, tomatoes, applies. Tomatoes are included in the fruiting vegetables crop group.

Next Steps

The PMRA invites the public to submit written comments on the proposed MRLs for thiamethoxam up to 75 days from the date of publication of this document. Please forward your comments to Publications (see the contact information on the cover page of this document). The PMRA will consider all comments received before making a final decision on the proposed MRLs for thiamethoxam and posting a corresponding Established Maximum Residue Limit document in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website.

2 The Codex Alimentarius Commission is an international organization under the auspices of the United Nations that develops international food standards, including MRLs.